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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BRASILIA 000278

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FOR INL A/S JOHNSON, WHA A/S SHANNON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [BR](#) [ASEC](#) [KCRM](#)

SUBJECT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS IN BRAZIL

¶1. SUMMARY. Public security is Brazil's top social concern, making Brazil an increasingly eager partner for the United States on law enforcement matters. The year ahead will present even more

significant law enforcement challenges and opportunities for South America's dominant country. The flow of illicit drugs through Brazil from neighboring source countries continues to increase, making Brazil a major transit country and the second largest consumer of cocaine in the world. Organized crime essentially controls the urban shanty towns (favelas) of Brazil's major cities, home to millions of Brazil's urban poor. Urban gangs operating from difficult-to-police shanty towns corrupt Brazilian judicial and penal systems, undermine the nation's social services, are involved in the growing drug traffic from Bolivia, and are increasingly networked with international organized crime. Mission Brazil has competent and willing law enforcement partners within Brazilian federal, state, and municipal governments. We are already seizing the opportunity to partner with diverse Brazilian law enforcement entities in fighting the growing transnational threats arising in Brazil. The Mission-wide Projeto PONTES aimed at enhancing law enforcement cooperation has been received enthusiastically by both federal law enforcement officials and state and municipal officials from the governors and mayors down, demonstrating the potential for cooperation on these issues. INL and NAS Brasilia are cornerstones for this emerging law enforcement partnership, but NAS Brasilia will require a large increase in funding to take full advantage of the opportunities being created. End summary. END SUMMARY

#### EMERGING BRAZIL

¶2. Brazil, already the dominant country of South America, is transitioning from a regional leader to a global power. Given its support of democratic institutions and support of free market policies, Brazil has the potential to be the best and most stable of the "BRICs." However, public security matters are an increasing threat. As we pursue partnerships across a wide range of mutual interests, there is no issue of greater concern for U.S. national interests than public security and law enforcement.

#### ILLICIT DRUG FLOW TO BRAZIL AND BEYOND

¶3. Brazil is a major transit country for illicit drugs from neighboring source countries destined for Europe and, to a lesser extent, the U.S. Brazil is also the second largest consumer of cocaine in the world, after the U.S. Due to the vastness of Brazil's borders and the lack of resources, Brazilian law enforcement is reliant on intelligence-driven joint operations, often in partnership with neighboring countries, in an attempt to control the smuggling of drugs into and through Brazil. With U.S. assistance, the Departamento de Policia Federal (DPF) has focused greater attention on shipping points, such as air and sea ports, but much more could be done. Brazil shares a 2,130 mile border with Bolivia that is extremely difficult to police. The flow of cocaine across this border has increased drastically over the past three years. With the Government of Bolivia's recent expulsion of the DEA, Bolivian narcotics production will increase, as will drug traffic into Brazil. Recent information suggests that some of these narcotics are destined for the United States.

¶4. DEA-trained and NAS-funded Special Investigative Units (SIU) and

Airport Interdiction Teams have made large drug seizures in Brazil and have dismantled three international narco-trafficking organizations that were responsible for cocaine and heroin flow to the United States. With additional resources, these programs could become even more successful. Additional SIUs could be established throughout Brazil, with a priority placed on border areas and the growing Northeast. International flights from Brazil increased dramatically in the last year. Direct commercial routes to Africa, Europe, and the United States (including on American carriers Delta, United, and American) were established from Brazil's north and northeastern cities of Recife, Salvador, Fortaleza, and Manaus and will be established to Brasilia in the coming year. Drug trafficking trends are changing with the increased flights. Additional Airport Interdiction teams should be set up in at least twelve additional Brazilian airports.

#### ORGANIZED CRIME IN BRAZIL'S MAJOR CITIES

¶5. Urban gangs, notably Sao Paulo's First Command of the Capital (PCC), Rio de Janeiro's Red Command (CV), and the Friends of Friends gang are increasingly involved in narcotics and weapons trafficking.

They are present at key border points and cities such as Santa Cruz, Bolivia. They have links to international drug organizations in Bolivia and Paraguay, possibly including links to Colombian and Mexican traffickers known to be operating in Bolivia. The DPF have recently warned the Portuguese federal police that there may be a PCC cell operating in Portugal.

¶6. The PCC operates openly inside Brazilian prisons and is capable of generating major waves of violence in Brazilian society. The PCC's various criminal activities include the 2005 theft of 160 million dollars from the Central Bank in Fortaleza, extensive prison riots, and a powerful wave of violence that peaked in the streets of Sao Paulo when a high echelon PCC commander and drug trafficker was arrested and placed in solitary confinement. The first targets of the street violence were off-duty police officers who were

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assassinated very openly on public transportation.

¶7. Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are the two most populous cities of South America and Belo Horizonte is a growing metropolis. The Northeast of Brazil is a huge, populous area with a per capita gross domestic product lower than Bolivia's. Thirty-five million people live in poverty in the region, including in its major cities of Recife, Fortaleza, and Salvador. (Brasilia has a much smaller population. However, Brazil's planned capital is an important and symbolic city to the Brazilian psyche.) All of these cities, to varying degrees, are plagued by violent, often drug-related, crime.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS

¶8. NAS, DEA and all the members of Mission Brazil's Law Enforcement Working Group have historically, and successfully, partnered with Brazil's Federal Police (DPF) and other Brazilian federal institutions on narcotics and law enforcement issues. While the

federal authorities will remain the key and most reliable law enforcement partners for the USG, we have been expanding our law enforcement partnerships to include state and municipal governments where appropriate, particularly in the aforementioned major cities of Brazil. State and city police, public security officials, judges, and prosecutors have all shown great interest in USG law enforcement partnerships and training opportunities.

¶9. Most recently, the RLA-programmed, NAS-funded, Projeto PONTES got off to a very successful start in Brasilia, Rio, Sao Paulo, and Recife. PONTES is a series of seminars on law enforcement topics chosen by Embassy Brasilia's LEWG that will be offered to federal, state, municipal, and military law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and public security officials in four major cities (Rio, Sao Paulo, Recife, and Brasilia.) The first of these seminars, on Combating Cyber Crime, was attended by approximately 700 Brazilian officials. Future seminars will address Child Pornography/Crimes Against Children, Witness and Court Security, Gangs, and Using DNA Evidence. Projeto PONTES has been received enthusiastically by both federal law enforcement officials and state and municipal officials from the governors and mayors down.

#### THE ROAD AHEAD

¶10. The success of the first PONTES seminar is a good indication of the willingness of multi-jurisdictional Brazilian law enforcement entities to partner with the United States in addressing issues of public security. With additional resources, Mission Brazil could continue to create a broader net of law enforcement partnerships to help Brazil confront its growing transnational criminal threats. These might include increased partnerships in port and airport security, additional SIU units focused in Brazil's borders with narcotic producing countries, increased multi-jurisdictional partnerships in Brazil's major cities to address urban organized crime, and increased law enforcement training at all levels.

¶11. INL and NAS Brasilia are cornerstones for this important emerging law enforcement partnership. The GOB signed a Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the U.S. in August 2008. The LOA established seven distinct joint law enforcement projects (Law Enforcement Training, Special Investigation Units, Airport Interdiction, Canine Program, Urban Crime Control, Drug Prevention, and Money Laundering.) With the LOA signed, NAS Brasilia has established all seven programs and has plans to obligate all "pipeline", FY 2006, and FY 2007 funds in a span of two years. However, current planning will decrease NAS Brasilia's budget to between \$200,000 and \$300,000 annually for FY 2008, 2009, and 2010. NAS Brasilia will require a large increase in funding to take full advantage of the opportunities created by the emerging U.S. / Brazil law enforcement and public security partnership. Mission Brazil has requested \$6 million for NAS in the

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2011 Mission Strategic Plan (MSP) and believes that we will require

a similar annual amount as we move forward in building and maintaining effective law enforcement and public security partnerships with Brazil.

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